- Ao Anti-Communist Activities of the Leagus of Unions
  - 1. Toward the end of February 1949, the League of Unions (non-communist) sent a note to the Lebanese Hinistry of National Economy, asking that measures be taken to restrict the activities of the communist-controlled Federation of Unions and pointing out that that group is unlicensed and its activities disturb public order. The League also asked the Unistry to inform the Department of Social Affairs that it will resist vigorously any action the Department may take in connection with the working class without consulting the League.
  - 2. The League received a reply to this note from the Hinistry of National Economy, accepting its demands and stating that the Hinistry had sent instructions to the Hinistry of Interior to confiscate any tract or other publication issued by the Federation, and to prosecute those responsible for the publications.
  - 3. The port workers union, a member of the League of Unions headed by Huharmad Sharqawi, has resisted communist attempts at infiltration. Source states that the members of the union's Executive Council have firm control over the union. Hustafa 'Aris, according to source, has tried to gain influence in the port workers' union through Yusuf Khalidi, its former head. This move was blocked by the League, which gave the port workers union a warning that resulted in Khalidi's dismissal. Source adds that Communists are concentrating on port workers in Tripoli, among whom are a number of Communists.
  - 4. The League of Unions is trying to split the masons' union, which is strongly attached to the communist-controlled Federation of Unions. Source attributes the loyalty of this union to the Federation to the influence of its chief, Murshid Saliba, who, source states, is a member of the Central Committee of the Lebanese Communist Party.\*

CLASSIFICATION STATE NAVY NSRB DISTRIBUTION ARMY AIR Document No

This document is hereby regraded to CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the letter of 16 October 1978 from the Director of Central Intelligence to the Archivist of the United States.

Next Review DateAppPeved For Release 1999/09/09 : CIA-RDP82-00457R00266

013 By:



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

20/(1/(29

٠.9...

- B. Activities of Unions Adhering to the Federation of Unions (Communist-Dominated)
  - 5. Hanna Zarqa led a neeting of textile workers on 13 March at Atiyah Shaykhani's house in Madet to discuss forming a textile workers' union. A committee was formed at this meeting to contact men and women workers and to transmit information sent to the proposed union from Beirut (presumably from the Federation of Unions). Following a second meeting which was scheduled for 20 March, the committee intended to apply to the Department of Social Affairs for a union permit.
  - 6. The general committee of the typesetters' union invited the typesetters to a meeting. Despite the extensive publicity concerning the neeting, only thirteen persons attended. The only subject discussed was the question of the collection of funds for aiding Mustafa 'Aris in prison, and for giving financial aid to his wife.
  - 7. On 14 Harch the wood polishers met at the Federation of Unions' headquarters to elect a new council for the Union. When it became apparent that the najority of those present were communist and that therefore, the new council would be communist, Muhyi-al-Din Nahhas (who was present as representative of the Department of Social Affairs of the Hinistry of National Economy), by raising certain legal points, succeeded in having the meeting postponed for twenty-five days. Source states that Nahhas hoped to be able to bring a number of non-Communist workers to the next meeting.

25X1A6a

Comment. Saliba's name was not listed as one of the members of the Central Committee elected on 2 February 1949, as given in 25X1X6

CONFIDENTIAL